Commissioner for Patents Page 13 November 17, 2004 BEST AVAILABLE COPY

## III. Remarks

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The objections to the drawings are noted. The specification has been amended to address the objections noted by the examiner. The numbers recited in the specification are now consistent with the drawings. Applicant has amended the description of Figure 9A to recite that it is a perspective view generally viewed from the line A-A of Figure 9. Applicant submits that the description of Figure 9A as amended accurately portrays the content of the drawing. Approval of the drawings is respectfully requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 6-18, 21-22 is noted and appreciated. The claims have been amended to address the 35 USC §112 objections noted by the examiner. Claim 3 has been amended to be in independent form inclusive of subject matter of claims from which it depended. Allowance of claim 3 as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been amended to address the 35 USC §112 objection raised by the examiner. Allowance of claim 12 and dependent claims 13-18 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 based on reference JP 361292238. This reference discloses a truck trailer bed having load carrying chocks which cooperate in pairs to form a cradle for holding cylindrical load. The chocks are individually rotatable between a position flush with the trailer bed and a position on top of the bed in position to support a portion of a cylindrical load. In the closed position the

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chock is stored in a hole in the trailer bed. Rotation of a chock to an open position does not uncover a deck opening that provides clearance suitable for loading and unloading cargo items.

Claims 1 and 19 of the application have been amended to more fully recite that the deck opening between deck segments provides a clearance for loading and unloading munitions items. Support for the amendment is found at page 10, line 4 of the specification. The munitions loader has the clearance space available to it in the loading and unloading procedures. For example a loader with a platform carrying long bodied munitions can deposit the load on the deck. The deck opening clearance allows the loader platform to be lowered further to a point beneath the deck surface and free of the load so that the loader can be moved away from the deck. As noted above, this structure is not present or suggested by the JP '238 reference. Allowance of independent claims 1 and 19 is respectfully requested along with claims dependent thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hoeper, et. al.

November 17, 2004

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GP:1645419 v2

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•			·-	iling Date 10/15/2003						
for FY 2005			First (	First Named Inventor Hoeper, John H.						
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Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27			+	Art Unit 3611			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,			
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